

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MEETING
Second Quarterly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2004

Meeting Date: January 22, 2004
Meeting No.: 59

Place: TCEQ Campus, Building F
Room: 2210

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

TGPC Members

	<u>Affiliation</u>
Mary Ambrose	TCEQ
Radu Boghici	TWDB
Ambrose Charles	TDA
Leslie Savage (1:12)	RCT
Allan Jones	TAES
Kevin Wagner (1:14)	TSSWCB
Ron Fieseler	TAGD
(no representative)	TDH
Lee Parham	TDLR
Bridget Scanlon	BEG

Agency Staff

	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Program</u>
Cary Betz	TCEQ	Technical Analysis Division
Leon Byrd	TCEQ	Technical Analysis Division
Abiy Berehe	TCEQ	Technical Analysis Division
Alan Cherepon	TCEQ	Technical Analysis Division
Susi Ferguson	TCEQ	Policy & Standards
Frank Fuller	TCEQ	Policy & Standards
John Lich	TCEQ	Technical Analysis Division
Steve Musick	TCEQ	Technical Analysis Division
Joe Peters	TCEQ	Technical Analysis Division
Joe Thomas	TCEQ	Policy & Regulation Division
John Williams	TCEQ	Environmental Law Division

Interested Parties

	<u>Affiliation</u>
Patricia Bobeck	TDH
Jeff Cunningham	TAMU
Mary Etter	LCRA
Richard Eyster	TDA
Lynne Fahlquist	USGS
Michael Hare	TDA
Bruce Lesikar	TCE
Jim O'Connor	SAWS
Bill Renfro	RCT
George Schmidt	EHA
Steve Seni	RCT
Eric Strom	USGS

MEETING HANDOUTS

1. Agenda
2. USGS Memo-Data Dictionary Review and Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network Design Progress
3. Texas State Senate: Select Committee on Water Policy - Web Page
4. FY03 Pesticide Monitoring Summary
5. Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 2003. Table of Contents
6. TGPC Rule Log Update on January 22, 2004

MEETING RECORD OF JANUARY 22, 2004

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Mary Ambrose, Designated Chairman of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), called the FY2004, Second Quarterly Meeting to order at 1:10 P.M., CST.

II. Subcommittee Reports

Agricultural Chemicals - Steve Musick, TCEQ, Chair. The Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee held its FY2004 second quarter meeting on January 22, 2004 at 10:30 a.m.

The members were updated on Task Force (TF) activities:

Site Selection - The TF Chairman (TWDB) reported that this year's sampling effort would focus on the High Plains (Ogallala) aquifer, but would also include the completion of sampling for several other aquifers including the Seymour and the Blaine Gypsum.

Education - The TF Chairman (TCE) reported on several county level, agricultural producer seminars in the Lubbock area which included information on the pesticide water quality activities of the Subcommittee.

Under the Subcommittee's Business items, members heard a presentation on FY03 pesticide monitoring activities, which included 482 wells screened for atrazine and metolachlor and 18 lab analyses for pesticides with no detections above the MCL. Subcommittee discussed and adopted an FY04 Pesticide Monitoring Plan similar in scope to the FY03 Plan. The members discussed possible revisions to the Subcommittee's charge (for update by the full committee) and potential research proposals for Groundwater Research Subcommittee. No action was taken on these items. Members were updated on the status of the EPA Atrazine agreed order process (iRED). The Subcommittee heard announcements and there were no public comments

Data Management - Lynne Fahlquist, USGS. The Data Management Subcommittee met in November, 2003. The meeting focused on defining a common set of goals for the ambient groundwater project. A questionnaire that had been given to the full Committee was analyzed by the Subcommittee, who then formulated a common statewide objective. This objective would be to continue ambient groundwater monitoring with enhanced strategic targeted monitoring. The data dictionary is still in review.

Public Education and Outreach - Bruce Lesikar, TCE, Chair, said that they were still in the process of defining a complete membership. A meeting was held in November, 2003, to gather ideas regarding water quality and quantity issues. The Subcommittee will use those ideas to develop a strategic plan to use for the next several years. This will be the first charge to the Subcommittee. A meeting will be held this quarter to begin the process.

Groundwater Research - Bridget Scanlon, BEG, Co-Chair. The Groundwater Research

Subcommittee met on January 22, 2004. A list of research needs will be developed without linking these needs to a specific agency. White Papers will be written to try to acquire Federal funding for research projects. Topics of discussion were evapotranspiration, desalinization, and nitrate contamination.

Nonpoint Source Task Force - Kevin Wagner, TSSWCB, representative. This Subcommittee has been fairly inactive. Bruce Lesikar (TCE), Richard Eyster (TDA), and Bill Renfro (RCT), volunteered to be on the Subcommittee.

III. Presentation

West Texas Subsidence - Steve Seni (RCT). There have been six sinkholes form in west Texas over the past 40 years, three in the past twenty years in west Texas and southern New Mexico. Winkler County has two sinks develop, one in May, 2003, and the other in 1982. The most recent Wink sink is about 900 feet across, when it first formed it was 300 feet across. There is standing water about 100 feet below the surface, but the depth of the sinks is unknown. Walls of the sinks remain near vertical indicating that the original holes are fairly large. There are faults, similar to growth faults, that extend out thousands of feet, thus possibly affecting the surrounding infrastructure such as high pressure transmission lines, power lines, and fiber optic cables.

There have been no site specific studies of these sinkholes; therefore, the mechanism(s) that formed them is unknown. Geologic evidence points to the fact that these sort of processes have been going on for millions of years.

IV. Business - Discussion & Possible Action

Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy - Discuss Strategy Implementation Issues - Frank Fuller, TCEQ. Specific recommendations have been placed with the appropriate subcommittees and have been incorporated into their respective charges. At the next Committee meeting the subcommittees should report on the progress of incorporating Strategies into their charges. These strategies will be placed in the Report to the Legislature which will be started at the next Committee meeting.

Review and Approval of Revised Subcommittee - Nonpoint Source Subcommittee, and Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee. No action has occurred regarding these subcommittees.

Set Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting date: April 15, 2004, 1:00 p.m., room #2210, building F, TCEQ Campus.

V. Information Exchange for Groundwater Related Activities/Status Update

Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 2003 - Cary Betz, TCEQ. Included in the handouts is a Table of Contents for the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report - 2003. Traditionally, Committee approval of the Table of Contents has been sought prior to approval of the total report which is due on April 1, of each year for the previous year. This year the Agency Communications Division requested that the report text only be published as a paper copy and the tables be placed on the web site and not published in paper format. This would require some action by the Committee before final approval. It is recommended that the study of these proposed format changes be assigned to the Data Management Subcommittee for review.

Status - Water Quality Inventory (“305(b)”) Report -2004. Data from monitoring the ambient groundwater quality has been received from the TWDB. Concerns with groundwater quality in certain aquifers will be discussed in the report.

Status - NPS Plan Development/Stakeholder Meeting - 01/29/2004. Cary Betz, TCEQ. There is a stakeholder meeting January 29, 2004, at the Red Lion Inn, Austin, Texas. The draft Plan will be discussed by the stakeholders. This will help establish the funding from the State for the next five years.

Regional Water Planning Update - Texas Water Development Board. Radu Boghici, TWDB. Groundwater availability is being assessed in Regions A and O. The Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) for Region A is being updated.

Groundwater Availability Modeling Update - Texas Water Development Board. Radu Boghici, TWDB. Prior to 2003 four major aquifer GAMs were completed. These include the Northern Ogalalla, Hueco-Mesilla Bolson, Barton Springs segment of the Edwards, and the Trinity aquifer in the Hill Country. In 2003, six major aquifer GAMs were completed. These include the Southern Ogalalla, the southern part of the Carrizo-Wilcox, central Carrizo-Wilcox, northern Carrizo-Wilcox, northern Edwards, and the lower Rio Grande Valley. By October, 2004, seven major aquifer GAMs will be completed. These are Edwards-Trinity Plateau, Cenozoic-Pecos Alluvium, Central Gulf Coast, Northern Gulf Coast, Northern Trinity, Edwards Balcones Fault Zone, and Seymour. The three minor aquifer GAMs under contract to be completed by October 2004, are West Texas Bolsons-Igneous, Lipan, and Queen City-Sparta. Major aquifer GAMs that have been completed are in the process of being updated. They are the Northern Ogalalla and as part of the Queen City-Sparta the Northern, Central, and Southern Carrizo-Wilcox.

The completed GAMs are being used to address questions from Regional Water Planning groups, Groundwater Conservation Districts, and other governmental organizations. For 2003, 37 requests have been submitted, 25 have been completed, two have been withdrawn, four are on hold pending modeling, and six are in progress.

HB 3030 (Notification of Groundwater Contamination) - TCEQ Point of Contact. Steve Musick, TCEQ. The Committee adopted rules at the last meeting that implemented

HB 3030, but most of the responsibility for implementation lies with the TCEQ. A letter was sent to the executive management of member agencies in order to inform them of the passage of HB 3030 and briefly explain its essence.

An internal TCEQ work group will develop guidelines to determine when contamination takes place, what type of contaminants are involved, and how much area would require public notice to private well owners. There are other groundwater notice requirements in the existing statutes. These will be reviewed by the Commission work group for consistency. Once the internal processes are established, the TCEQ will discuss with member agencies a method for sharing the data. Steve Musick, TCEQ, has been designated as the point of contact for contamination reporting under HB 3030.

VI. Announcements (All Members)

Rules Update - TCEQ rule tracking log - Joe Thomas, TCEQ. A summary of the rule log was distributed to members. All but one of the rules are carried over from the last Committee meeting. The new rule would allow TCEQ to accept data from an out-of-state environmental testing laboratory.

Lee Parham, TDLR, presented rule updates relating to changes in water-well drillers and pump installer rules that went to effect December 1, 2003.. Basically the proposed rule changes are more protective of groundwater by having more stringent monitoring well construction regulations and apprenticeship programs for drillers and pump installers. TDLR encourages all water-well drillers to locate new wells using GPS.

New Publications - USGS Open-File Report 03-345, 2003, *Ground-Water Quality of the Southern High Plains Aquifer, Texas and New Mexico, 2001*.

TWDB Report 360, February 2004 *Aquifers of the Edwards Plateau*.

TCEQ, RG-384, December 2003, *How to Develop a Monitoring Plan for a Public Water System*.

TCEQ, RG-384-errata, December 2003, *Corrections to August 2003 Guidance, How to Develop a Monitoring Plan for a Public Water System*.

TCEQ, RG-366/TRRP-02, December 2003, *TRRP: Applicability and Grandfathering*

Upcoming Conferences

Texas Groundwater Association Conference - January 27-30, 2004, Waco, TX

On-Site Waste Water Treatment Research Council, March 2&3, 2004, Waco, TX

Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators, March 7-9, 2004, Washington, D.C.

Association of State Drinking Water Administration - March 17-19, Washington, D.C.

Groundwater Protection Council, March 21-23, 2004, Washington, D.C.

VII. Public Comment

Lynn Fahlquist, USGS, announced the new groundwater publication listed above.

VIII. Adjourn

Chair, Mary Ambrose, adjourned meeting at approximately 2:40 P. M., CST.